

**Position Title**

Research Physical Scientist, AST,  
Biological/Physical Sciences Research

**Organization**

SCB / BIOENGINEERING BRANCH

**NASA Announcement Number**

AR12B0018

**Vacancy Type**

Case File

**OPM Control Number / Status**

311548900 / Posted

**Salary Range**

\$134,647 - \$155,500

*Job has closed*

**Open Dates**

03/12/2012 - 05/11/2012

**Pay Plan - Series / Grade (Low, High, Potential)**

GS - 1301 / 15, 15, 15

**Position Information**

Full-Time / Permanent

**Duty Location**

062205085 - Moffett Field, CA (1)

**Who May Be Considered**

This announcement is open to all qualified U.S. citizens.

**Citizenship Required**

True

This announcement combines a merit promotion and a competitive announcement in one advertisement. Applications will be accepted from status and non-status candidates. Status candidates, including NASA term employees eligible for conversion under the NASA Flexibility Act of 2004, will be considered under merit promotion procedures. Non-status candidates will be considered under competitive procedures.

**Job Summary**

The Bioengineering Branch (Code SCB) at NASA Ames Research Center is currently seeking interested applicants for the position of Research Physical Scientist. The incumbent conducts theoretical and experimental research in synthetic biology to fabricate, test, and evaluate fundamental characteristics of molecular and cellular systems using biochemical, cellular, and tissue engineering for NASA applications.

**Comments**

This vacancy announcement has been amended to extend the closing date to 5/11/2012.

**Marketing Summary**

NASA, the world's leader in space and aeronautics is always seeking outstanding scientists, engineers, and other talented professionals to carry forward the great discovery process that its mission demands. Creativity. Ambition. Teamwork. A sense of daring. And a probing mind. That's what it takes to join NASA, one of the best places to work in the Federal Government.

## **Key Requirements**

1. Position subject to pre-employment background investigation
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## **Total number of openings**

1

## **Major Duties**

As a Research Physical Scientist, the incumbent is a senior investigator responsible for designing and conducting a research program to create advances in biological technologies and foundational tools to make biological systems easier to engineer for applications in the following areas: advanced materials; biological life support; resource utilization; food production. The incumbent engineers biological components and systems that are not known to nature and engineers microorganisms and microbial ecosystems to survive in extreme environments. The incumbent competes for funded grants, leads research teams, and collaborates as a senior scientist to conduct a complex ground and flight research programs. S/he ensures the progress and completion of projects and researches strategies to establish partnerships leveraging investments in research and technology by industry, foundations, and other agencies.

As an expert consultant and advisor, the incumbent plays a key role in defining the field of Space Synthetic Biology. The incumbent provides strategic consulting to NASA management and defines research direction for applying Synthetic Biology to achieve the goals and objectives of the Space Synthetic Biology project. S/he interfaces with the Synthetic Biology community to further programmatic goals, delivers oral reports of research findings at technical forums, and prepares written reports for publication in the news media, NASA documents, books, and peer-reviewed scientific journals. The incumbent referees manuscripts for technical journals, reviews peers' research proposals, participates in workshops, organizes and chairs sessions for major scientific meetings.

## **General Qualifications**

Applicant must have one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade, which has equipped the applicant with the particular competencies needed to successfully perform the duties of the position described above.

Specialized experience for this position is defined as:

- Mastery experience in biological sciences as evidenced by a distinguished record of scientific research publications, laboratory leadership, and competitive grant awards AND
- Mastery experience in one or more of the following physical science and/or biological specialties to develop and lead a biotechnology research program: biological life support; engineering of proteins and nucleic acids, biophysical analytical techniques, structural biology approaches, molecular dynamics simulations of biological systems, multi-scale modeling techniques, modeling of metabolism and/or methods in bioinformatics; and experience in analysis of genomic and metabolic data, or equivalent.

## **Educational Qualifications**

Basic Education Requirement: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major study in engineering, physical science, mathematics, life sciences, computer science, or other field of science.

Degrees in engineering technology are not considered to be qualifying for this position.

Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent desired.

Applicants must complete the following fields in USAJOBS Resume Builder, Step 2. Education section in order for education qualifications to be considered for this position:

- School or Program Name
- Country
- State/Territory/Province
- City/Town
- Degree/Level Attained
- Completion date
- Major
- Minor
- GPA

## **Requirements**

U.S. citizenship is required.

## How You Will Be Evaluated

Announcement will be used for both internal and external applicants.

Internal (Status) candidates will be evaluated as follows:

Resumes will be rated by an automated system (Resumix) that matches the competencies extracted from your resume to the competencies identified by the selecting official for the position. Based on the competencies you match, you are placed in one of three categories identified as 90, 80, or 70 pt. quality categories, which are defined as:

90 pt. Category - Tentative meets (until subsequent confirmation upon referral) the basic qualification requirements identified in the vacancy announcement and has experience in the same or similar job that has demonstrated superior proficiency in the primary requirements of the position.

80 pt. Category - Tentatively meets (until subsequent confirmation upon referral) the basic qualification requirements identified in the vacancy announcement and demonstrates satisfactory proficiency in the primary requirements of the position.

70 pt. Category - Fails to meet criteria described in the 80 pt. category.

Additional application guidance is available in NASA's *Applicant Guide*.  
([http://resume.nasa.gov/applicant\\_guide.html](http://resume.nasa.gov/applicant_guide.html)).

For the purpose of the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) and the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP), candidates rated in the top quality category are considered well-qualified.

External (Non-Status) candidates will be evaluated as follows:

Same process as Internal (Status) candidates, with the additional procedures related to Veterans:

The Category Rating Process protects the rights of veterans by placing them ahead of non-preference eligibles within each category. Preference eligibles who meet qualification requirements and have a compensable service-connected disability of at least 10 percent must be listed at the top of the highest quality category, except when the position being filled is scientific or professional at the GS-09 grade level or higher.

## Benefits

NASA offers excellent benefit programs and competitive salaries. To learn more about pay and benefits at NASA, click *HERE* (<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/benefits/benefits.htm> target=\_blank).

## Other Information

Any applicant tentatively selected for this position may be required to undergo a pre-employment background investigation.

Individuals who have special priority selection rights under the Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) must be well qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. See 'How You Will Be Evaluated' for definition of well qualified.

Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP consideration must indicate their eligibility when applying for a position. The USAJOBS resume asks you to identify your ICTAP eligibility; the NASA Supplemental Information asks you to identify your CTAP eligibility. If you are selected for the position, you must be prepared to submit proof that you meet the requirements for CTAP/ICTAP. This includes a copy of the agency notice, a copy of their most recent Performance Rating and a copy of their most recent SF-50 noting current position, grade level, and duty location.

As a condition of employment, male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must certify that they have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under the Selective Service Law.

In order to receive preference in hiring, you must clearly identify your claim for veterans preference on your resume. NASA's *Applicant Guide* ([https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant\\_guide.html](https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant_guide.html) *target=\_blank*) provides the information needed to assist you in determining whether or not you can claim 5 or 10 point veterans preference. You should not submit documents to prove your eligibility for veterans preference at this time. However, you must be prepared to submit proof of veterans preference (DD-214, and, if claiming 10-point preference, SF-15 plus proof required by that form) as requested by the Human Resources Office. Veterans preference will only be considered based on what is supported. For instance, if you claim 10-point preference, but are only able to document 5-point preference, you will be considered accordingly. If you fail to provide the required documents within the stated time period, we may withdraw a job offer and/or remove you from further consideration.

Your USAJOBS account asks you to assign a name to each of your resumes. When you apply to a NASA position, we will show you the text of the resume you have submitted, but we do not maintain the name you have assigned to that resume. If you wish to keep track of that information, we recommend you make note of it at the time you apply.

U.S. citizenship is required.

Current Federal employees must meet time in grade and three months after competitive appointment restrictions by the closing date of the announcement.

Allowable relocation expenses will be made to any applicant selected from outside the commuting area.

## How to Apply

This vacancy is being filled through NASA STARS, an automated Staffing and Recruitment System. NASA partners with USAJOBS in providing a seamless application process. Before you begin the application process, please read the vacancy announcement carefully and have all required information available. You may begin the process of submitting your resume by clicking on the 'Apply Online' link.

In order to be considered, you must submit a resume completed on the USAJOBS site. When completing your USAJOBS resume, please remember that NASA limits resumes to the equivalent of approximately SIX typed pages, or approximately 22,000 characters including spaces. You will NOT be allowed to complete the application process if your resume is too long or if your resume was uploaded to USAJobs from a second source. Additionally, NASA does not accept documents attached through USAJobs' document attachment feature.

Once you submit your resume to NASA, you will be asked to complete a short series of additional questions. You must finish the entire process in order to have a complete application package and receive consideration. Your answers will not be saved unless you finish the entire application.

You may edit a previously-submitted application, if the announcement is still open. For more information, see the *Applicant Guide*. ([https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant\\_guide.html](https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant_guide.html) *target=\_blank*)

If you are unable to apply electronically for this position, submit your resume and supplemental questions to: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Resume Operations Center, Mailstop: HS50, Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812. DO NOT submit your resume directly to the Center advertising this vacancy. Mailed resumes must be received by the close of business on the closing date of the announcement. Hard copy resumes requirements are provided at: *Hard Copy Resume Requirements* (<http://nasajobs.nasa.gov/howtoapply/hardcopyresumes.htm> *target=\_blank*).

If you are a first time applicant, we recommend that you review NASA's *Applicant Guide* ([https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant\\_guide.html](https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant_guide.html) *target=\_blank*) to ensure that you are providing a complete resume. Failure to submit the supplemental data and a resume that contains all of the required information may result in loss of consideration for positions in which you are interested.

All applications must be received no later than midnight Eastern Time on the closing date of the announcement.

## **Required Documents**

NASA's application process has been specifically developed to ensure that we only ask you for the information we absolutely need to evaluate your qualifications and eligibility. In order to apply for this position, you only need to submit your resume and answer the screening questions and supplemental information. No additional documentation is accepted at the time of application. (For example you need not submit narrative 'KSA' statements; they are not required and will not be evaluated.) In this way we allow you to focus on preparing a resume that best describes your background and abilities. For assistance in preparing your resume, consult the *Applicant Guide* ([https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant\\_guide.html](https://resume.nasa.gov/applicant_guide.html) *target=\_blank*).

Nothing further is required until requested by the Human Resources Office. At that point, we may ask you to submit documentation to support statements made in your resume. For example, we may ask you to provide academic transcripts or proof of Federal employment status. If you are claiming veterans' preference, we may ask you to submit proof of veterans preference (DD-214, and, if claiming 10-point preference, SF-15 plus proof required by that form). If you fail to provide the required documents within the stated time period, we may withdraw a job offer and/or remove you from further consideration.

## **Contact**

Ames Jobs / / [arc-amesjobs@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:arc-amesjobs@mail.nasa.gov)

## **What to Expect Next**

Candidates for NASA positions are evaluated using our automated staffing and recruitment system, NASA STARS, which compares your skills and experience as described in your resume with the requirements of the position. If you are found to be a highly qualified candidate, you will be referred to the selecting official for further consideration. (In some cases, individuals with priority for special consideration must be considered and selected before other candidates.) Whether or not you are contacted for an interview depends upon the location of the position and the judgment of the selecting official.

At NASA, we pride ourselves on efficient and timely recruitment actions, and you can normally expect to learn the outcome of the selection process in a fairly short period of time. In addition, to ensure that you can measure progress for yourself, NASA provides you with regularly updated information on the status of the vacancy announcement.